

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 70-9213

Subproceeding 05-01

ORDER ON MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION

The Skokomish Indian Tribe (“Skokomish”) has moved for reconsideration of the Court’s July 20, 2005 Order on the parties’ cross-motions for summary judgment on all claims. Such motions are disfavored and will be denied in the absence of “a showing of manifest error in the prior ruling or a showing of new facts or legal authority which could not have been brought to its attention earlier. . . .” Local Rule CR 7(h)(1). The Court finds that the Skokomish motion has failed to meet this standard, except in one area as set forth below.

First, the Skokomish assert that the Court overlooked catch data which showed that they did not regulate S’Klallam fishing, because the S’Klallam actually caught more crab and geoduck than did the Skokomish. “In light of this catch data, it is inconceivable that the Skokomish letters amount to an ‘exercise’ of its ‘primary right’ ‘against’ the S’Klallams.” Motion for Reconsideration, p. 4. This

ORDER ON MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION - 1

1 argument overlooks the language of the Hood Canal Agreement, in which the Skokomish agreed not to
2 “exercise or **seek to exercise**” its primary right against the S’Klallam or other stipulating Tribes in Hood
3 Canal north of Ayock Point. *United States v. Washington*, 626 F. Supp. 1405, 1469 (W.D.Wash. 1985)
4 (emphasis added). It was the Court’s ruling that the Skokomish **sought** to regulate other Tribes’ fishing
5 by issuing unilateral harvest plans and quotas for the other Tribes, and that such **attempt** to regulate
6 constituted a violation of the Hood Canal Agreement. The actual amounts subsequently harvested are
7 irrelevant to that determination.

8 Next, the Skokomish assert that the Court “misapprehended” the effect of letters written by the
9 Skokomish Tribe to other Tribes, and argue that “it is manifestly improper for the Court to grant
10 summary judgment by relying on evidentiary matters to which the Skokomish Tribe had no notice were at
11 issue.” Motion for Reconsideration, p. 8. The Skokomish by this argument refer to the Court’s finding
12 that these letters, with their accusations of bad faith, constituted an assertion of social disapproval.
13 Social disapproval and magical retaliation were previously found by the Court, Judge Boldt presiding, to
14 be the primary methods by which the Twana, as aboriginal predecessors of the Skokomish, regulated
15 fishing by other Tribes in their own fishing grounds. *Id.* at 1491. There was no lack of notice on this
16 issue; it was the Skokomish Tribe that itself put the tribal methods of fishing regulation at issue by
17 contending that such regulation of other Tribes’ fishing required an exercise of police powers, or the
18 imposition of time, place or manner restrictions. In rejecting that argument, the Court referred back to
19 Judge Boldt’s earlier language to find that regulation could be accomplished by means other than physical
20 force. Only if “the other deterrents proved inadequate” would the Twana have responded with physical
21 force. *Id.* As to magical retaliation, it should have been clear that the Court was not serious in
22 suggesting, in a footnote, that threats of litigation might be the modern-day equivalent. The Court finds
23 no basis for reconsidering its ruling in this area.

24 The third argument put forth by the Skokomish is that the Court “Misapprehended the Requested
25 Relief As Nothing in the Hood Canal Agreement . . . Supports a Declaration of an “In-Common” Fishing
26 area.” Motion for Reconsideration, p. 9. The Court did not “misapprehend” the relief requested by the

1 S'Klallam Tribes; the Request for Determination clearly asked for a declaration that the area of Hood
 2 Canal north of Ayock Point be designated an "in-common" management area. Request for
 3 Determination, p. 10. Nor does the designation of the area as an "in-common" management area
 4 conflict with the language of the Hood Canal Agreement, which states that in this area "the Skokomish
 5 and the Klallam Bands may exercise their respective treaty fishing rights without any limitation or control
 6 whatsoever . . . except as the stipulating parties **may mutually agree by compact or otherwise.**" *U.S.*
 7 *v. Washington*, 626 F. Supp. at 1469 (emphasis added). However, the Court notes that the S'Klallam
 8 did not actually include this aspect of the Request for Determination in the motion for summary
 9 judgment. *See*, Motion for Summary Judgment, Dkt. # 141; Proposed Order, Dkt. # 147. That portion
 10 of the Order declaring the area north of Ayock Point an "in-common" management area shall therefore be
 11 stricken.

12 Finally, the Skokomish assert that "the Court Misapprehended the Language of the Hood Canal
 13 Agreement" by stating at page 7, lines 20-21 that "the Skokomish may not exercise [their] primary right
 14 against the S'Klallam." It is the Skokomish position that this language, by omitting reference to the area
 15 north of Ayock Point, changes the meaning of the Hood Canal Agreement. That is not so. The omission
 16 of the limiting language "north of Ayock Point" did not write it out of the Hood Canal Agreement; that
 17 language was implicit in the Court's statement even though not expressly quoted. Similarly, as to the
 18 Court's discussion of "consent", the Skokomish argue that the Court "has turned the Agreement on its
 19 head by shifting the authority to grant consent from the Skokomish Tribe to the Two S'Klallam Tribes."
 20 Motion for Reconsideration, p. 12. That is not the case. The Court's use of the word "consent" on page
 21 6 was linked to previously-quoted language in the Hood Canal Agreement in which

22 the Skokomish agreed that 'it will not, under any condition or for any reason whatsoever, exercise
 23 or seek to exercise its primary right on Hood Canal north of Ayock Point . . .
 against any of the other stipulating parties without its or their express consent.'

24 Order on Cross-Motions for Summary Judgment, p. 2, *quoting U.S. v. Washington*, 626 F. Supp. at
 25 1469. Contrary to the Skokomish argument, this language clearly requires the consent of the S'Klallam
 26 Tribes before the Skokomish can exercise their primary right north of Ayock Rock. By referring to this

1 “consent”, the Court did not, in the words of the Skokomish, turn the Hood Canal Agreement “on its
2 head.”

3 Plaintiff’s motion for reconsideration is accordingly GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN
4 PART. The Court STRIKES that portion of the Order declaring “that the area north of Ayock Point is
5 an ‘in common’ management area. . . .” Order on Cross-Motions for Summary Judgment, p. 8. The
6 Court declines to further modify or reconsider the Order.

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8 DATED this 21st day of October, 2005.

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11 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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